



News Release

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Office of Inspector General
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NASA Subcontractor Sentenced

On January 19, 2000, Martin A. Francis, former consultant for Central Florida Collision Centers, Orlando, FL, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Orlando, FL, to 12 months supervised probation, restitution to NASA in the amount of \$16,000, a \$1,000 fine, and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100. Francis had previously pled guilty to a one count information in violation of the Anti-Kickback Act.

An investigation disclosed that Central Florida Collision Centers operated a paint and automobile body repair shop and contracted with Lockheed Martin Services (Lockheed), Cape Canaveral, FL, to paint finished items which Lockheed manufactured under prime contracts with NASA and the Department of Defense (DoD). Lockheed manufactures shuttle work stands and ground equipment for NASA and radar support equipment and spare hardware for DoD.

Francis paid kickbacks to a Lockheed procurement supervisor. The Lockheed procurement supervisor was responsible for soliciting bids and making awards on behalf of Lockheed. These costs were charged under prime contracts with NASA and DoD. In exchange for the kickbacks, Central Florida Collision Centers received sensitive bid information and continued business from Lockheed. This resulted in denying NASA and DoD an honest and competitive bidding process.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General Office of Criminal Investigations, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Ana T. Escobar, Orlando, FL (407) 648-7500.

Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:
800-424-9183

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